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April 30, 2006

State Representative Barb VanderVeen Chair, Senior Health, Security and Retirement Committee N1193 House Office Building P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514

House Bill 5389 – SUPPORT

Dear Representative VanderVeen,

I most sincerely request that you and your committee pass House Bill 5389 to legislate for a single point of entry to meet long term care needs

With one parent already close to seventy and facing health issues, we jokingly talk about the fact that I'll send him off to a nursing home if he gets to be too much trouble. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth but I am concerned that there does not seem to be any agency that can provide me with unbiased information about what options I might have to face in the future for both he and my mother.

There needs to be a central point where consumers can receive all the information about choices available that will suit the needs of the person needing long term care.

HB 5389 provides the legislation to support the formation of such an agency, and from what I have seen has many built in safeguards to protect both the consumer, providers and also allows the legislature to oversee the process and safeguard tax dollars.

Please can you and your committee give favorable consideration to House Bill 5389 and not allow intimidation from one or two pressure groups to prevent Michigan residents from gaining access to a very necessary point of access to long term care services.

It would be a great disservice to the state to do anything other than support this bill.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Respectfully,

Anne McLeod